

16.5 Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates

in spherical, a point is located by (ρ, ϕ, θ)

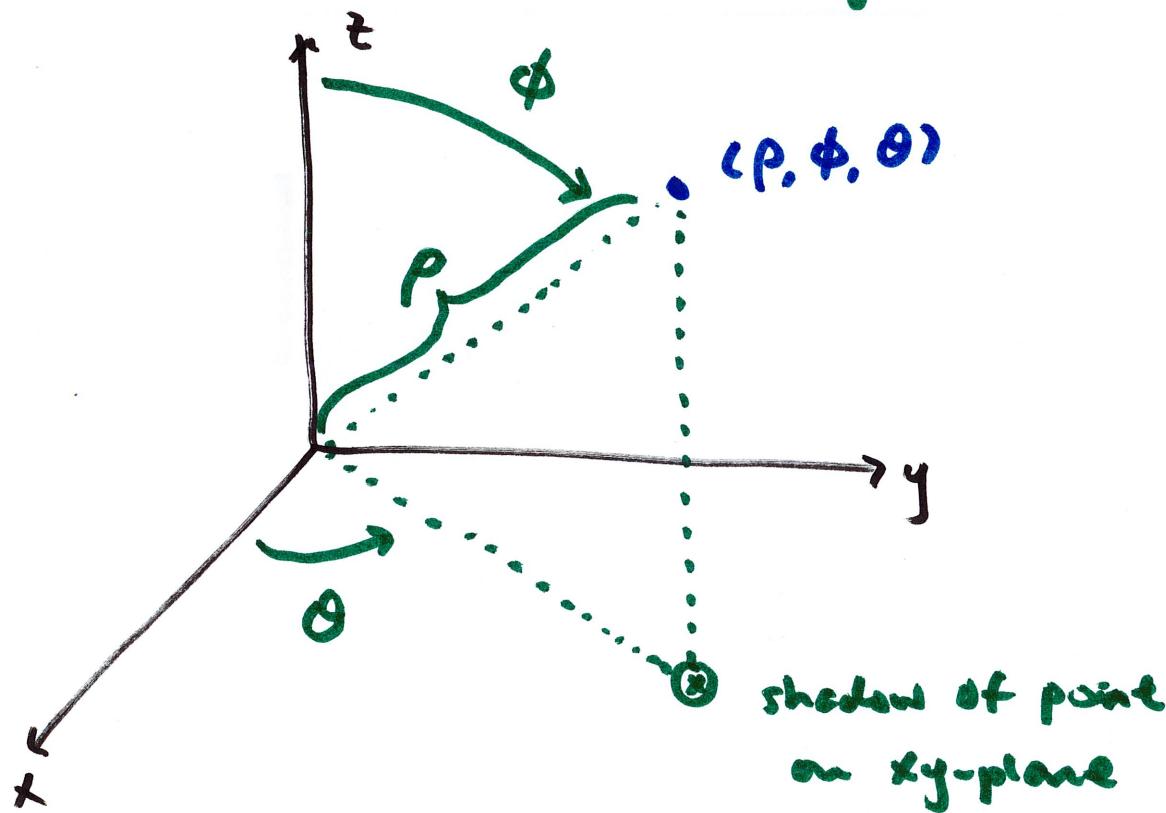
"rho"

distance from
origin

Same θ in polar/cylindrical

"phi"

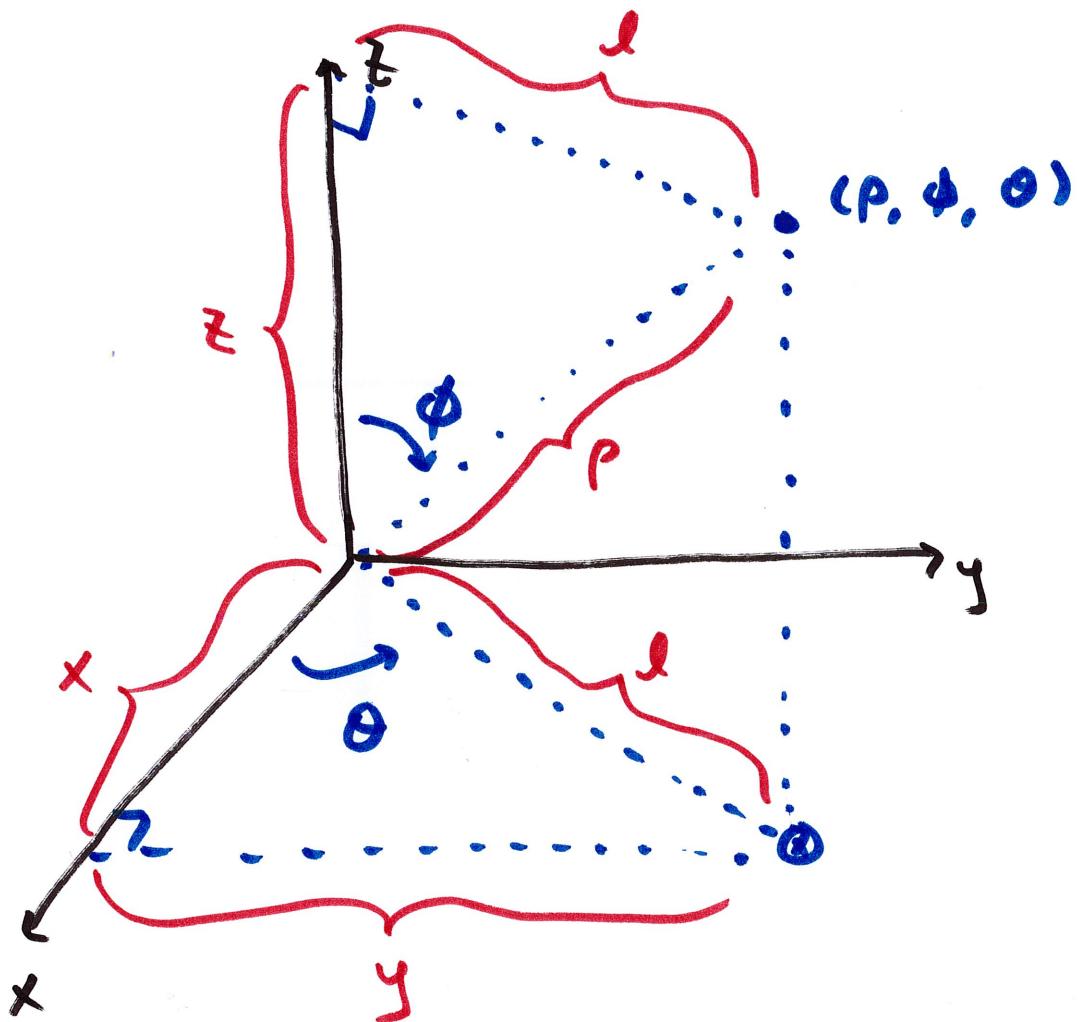
angle measured from
positive ρ -axis down



$$\begin{aligned} \rho &\geq 0 \\ 0 &\leq \theta \leq 2\pi \\ 0 &\leq \phi \leq \pi \end{aligned}$$

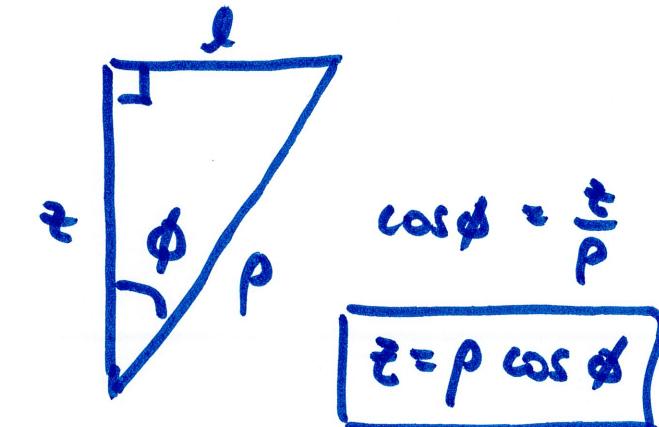
we don't need ϕ
to go to 2π because
we rely on θ
to go cover all sides
around

Converting to / from Cartesian



(ρ, ϕ, θ)

top triangle:



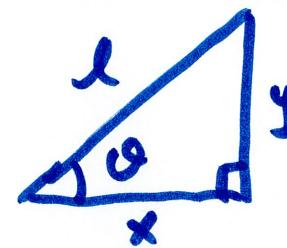
$$\cos \phi = \frac{z}{\rho}$$

$$z = \rho \cos \phi$$

$$\text{also, } \sin \phi = \frac{l}{\rho}$$

$$\text{so, } l = \rho \sin \phi$$

bottom triangle:



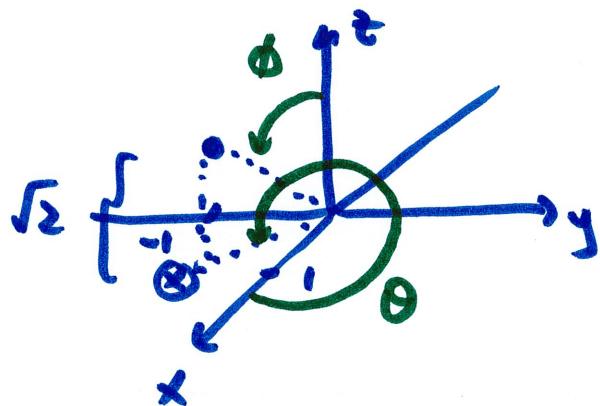
$$\cos \theta = \frac{x}{\rho} \rightarrow x = \rho \cos \theta \rightarrow x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{y}{\rho} \rightarrow y = \rho \sin \theta \rightarrow y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta$$

note:

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = \rho^2$$

example $(x, y, z) = (1, -1, \sqrt{2})$ $(\rho, \phi, \theta) = ?$



the picture shows

$$0 \leq \phi \leq \pi/2$$

$$\frac{3\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$$

ρ is easy: $\rho^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1 + 1 + 2 = 4$

$$\boxed{\rho = 2}$$

use $\hat{z} = \rho \cos \phi$ to find ϕ

$$\sqrt{2} = 2 \cos \phi \rightarrow \cos \phi = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \rightarrow \boxed{\phi = \pi/4}$$

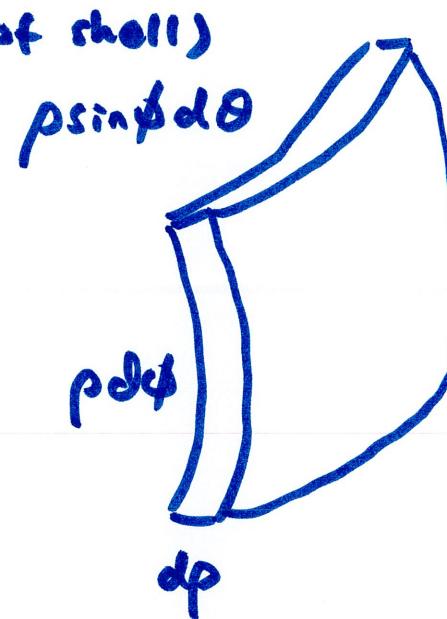
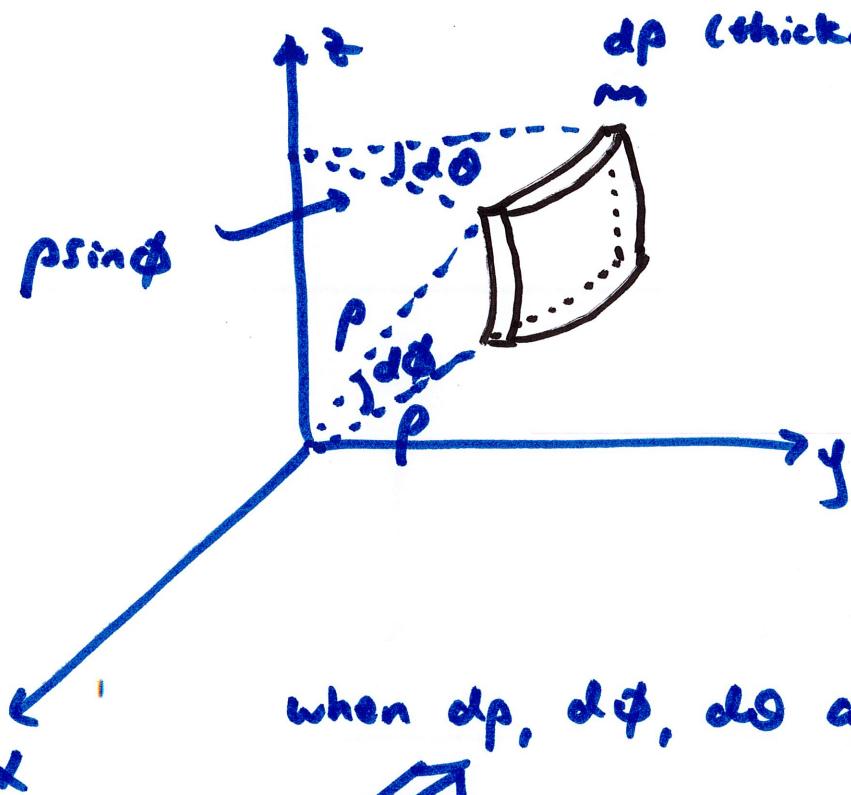
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \end{array} \right\} \quad \frac{y}{x} = \frac{\sin \phi \sin \theta}{\cos \phi \cos \theta} = \tan \theta = \frac{-1}{1} = -1$$

find θ in $\frac{3\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ such that
 $\tan \theta = -1 \rightarrow$

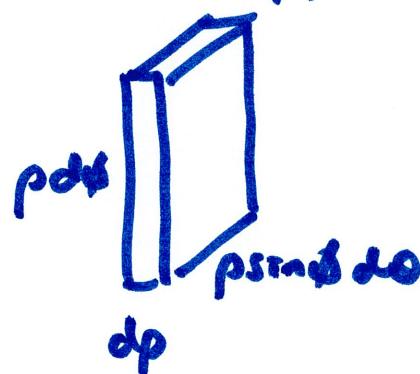
$$\boxed{\theta = \frac{7\pi}{4}}$$

dV in spherical is more complicated

imagine a thin slice of a spherical shell



when $d\rho$, $d\phi$, $d\theta$ are small, the shell \approx rectangle



volume = $dV = \rho^2 \sin\phi d\rho d\phi d\theta$

example

$$\int_0^6 \int_0^{\sqrt{36-x^2}} \int_{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}^{\sqrt{72-x^2-y^2}} dz dy dx$$

terrible integral in Cartesian

the upper bound of z is $\sqrt{72-x^2-y^2}$ which is the upper half of a sphere
radius $\sqrt{72}$ \equiv

so we are working in a sphere-like volume

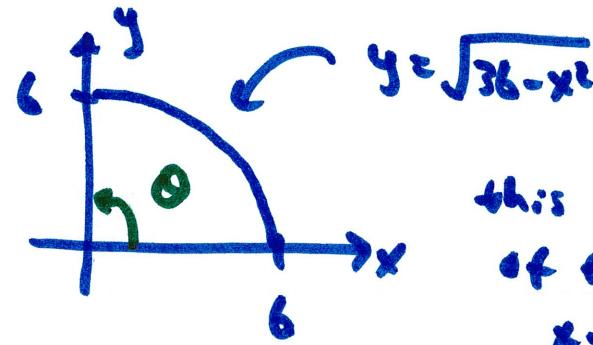
spherical is often a good choice

(box-like: Cartesian, cylinder-like: cylindrical)

sketch the volume from x, y, z bounds and find
bounds for ρ, ϕ, θ

$$0 \leq x \leq 6$$

$$0 \leq y \leq \sqrt{36-x^2}$$



this is the "shadow" of the volume on xy-plane

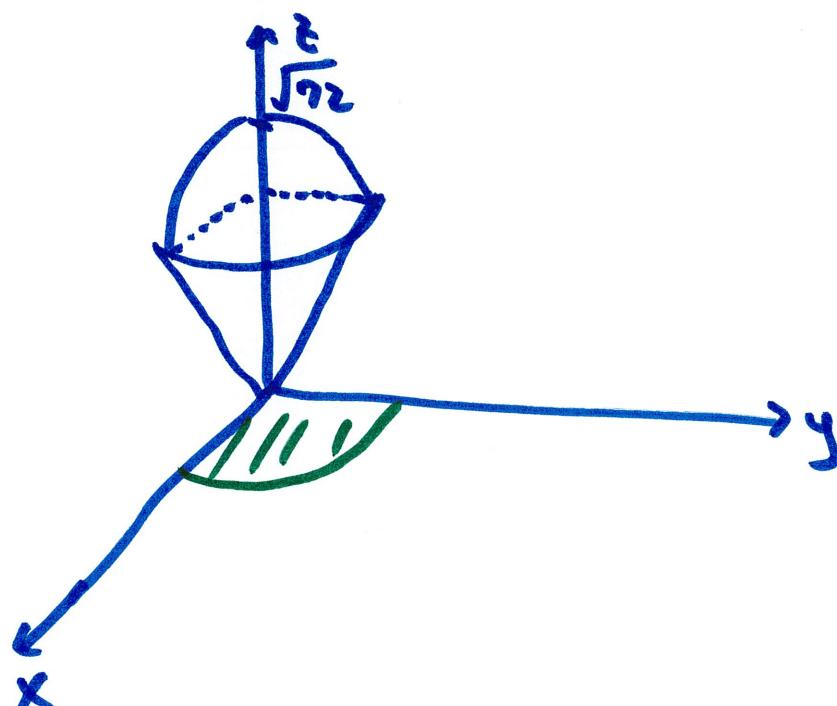
we see

$$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$$

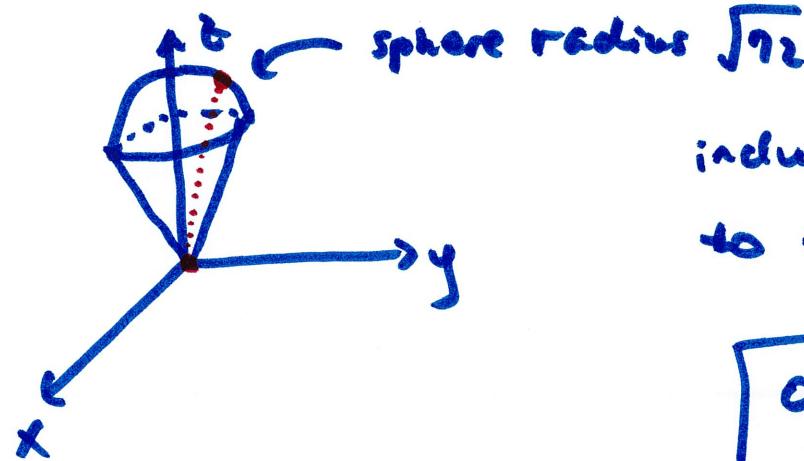
$$\underbrace{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}_{\text{cone}} \leq z \leq \underbrace{\sqrt{72-x^2-y^2}}_{\text{sphere radius } \sqrt{72}}$$

cone

sphere radius $\sqrt{72}$



upper bound of
 ρ is the distance from the origin to the edge of volume

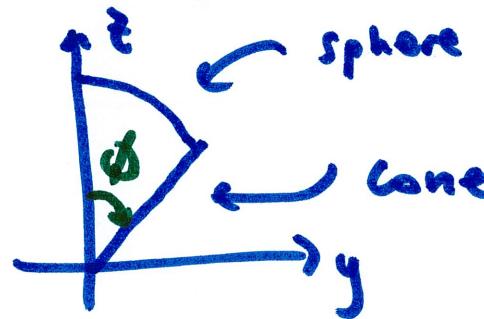


include all points from origin ($\rho = 0$)
to the sphere ($\rho = \sqrt{72}$)

$$0 \leq \rho \leq \sqrt{72}$$

now ϕ bounds : from z -axis to the edge of cone

on yz yz -plane



Cone equation: $z = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

On yz -plane: $z = \sqrt{y^2} = y$

so slope is 1 which bisects
quadrant, so $\phi = \pi/4$

therefore,

$$0 \leq \phi \leq \pi/4$$

now the integral:

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{\sqrt{72}} p^2 \sin\theta \, dp \, d\phi \, d\theta = \dots = \boxed{12\sqrt{72}\pi \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)}$$

dv (used to be $dz dy dx$)

example Find volume of solid outside $\rho=1$ and inside $\rho=2\cos\phi$

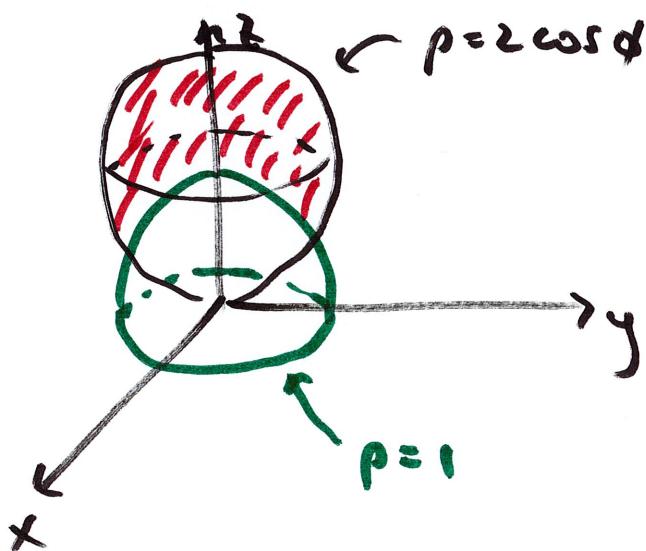
? ?

Sphere
radius 1
centered
(0, 0, 0)

what is $\rho=2\cos\phi$?

$$\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2} = \frac{2\overbrace{\rho \cos\phi}^z}{\rho} = \frac{2z}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}$$

$$x^2+y^2+z^2=2z \rightarrow x^2+y^2+(z-1)^2=1$$

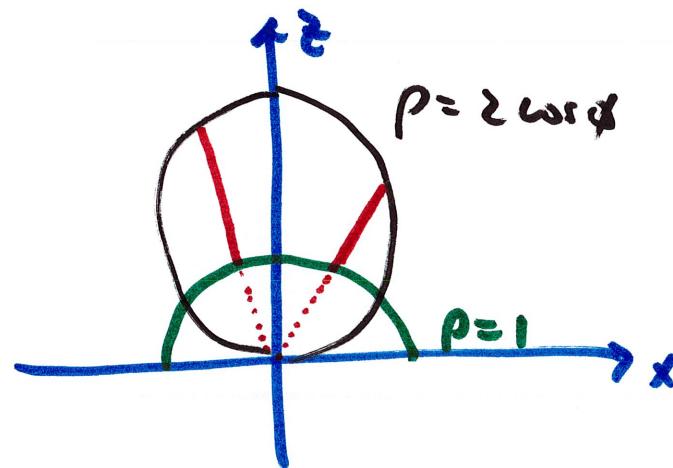


Sphere radius 1 center (0, 0, 1)

just by looking at this,
we know

$$0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$$

ρ bounds: project onto xz -plane

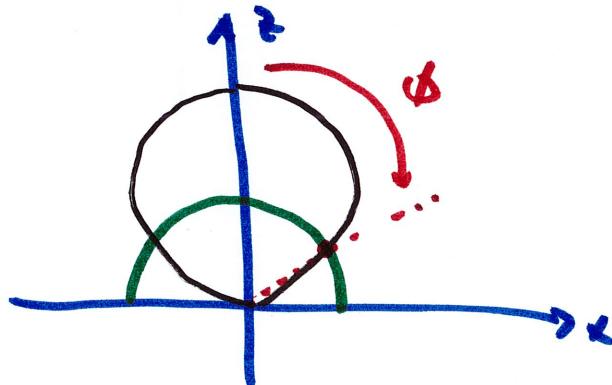


accumulate ρ from $\rho=1$
up to $\rho=2\cos\phi$

so,

$$1 \leq \rho \leq 2\cos\phi$$

ϕ bounds: from z -axis to intersection of spheres



intersection of $\rho=1$ and $\rho=2\cos\phi$

$$1 = 2\cos\phi$$

$$\cos\phi = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow \phi = \pi/3$$

(must be between
0 and $\pi/2$ because
above xy -plane)

so,

$$0 \leq \phi \leq \pi/3$$

volume:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/3} \int_1^{2\cos\phi} \underbrace{\rho^2 \sin\phi d\rho d\phi d\theta}_{dV} = \dots = \boxed{\frac{11\pi}{2}}$$